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(54) Title: USE OF A CD40:CD154 BINDING INTERRUPTOR TO PREVENT COUNTER ADAPTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSES, PARTICULARLY GRAFT REJECTION

## (57) Abstract

Compositions and methods disclosed herein capitalize on the discovery that rejection of a tissue graft can be inhibited using a CD40:CD154 binding interruptor, either alone or in combination with another immunomodulator or immunosuppressor. An advantageous, synergistic combination includes a CD40:CD154 binding interruptor and a CD28 signalling interruptor. An exemplary CD40:CD154 binding interruptor is an anti-CD154 monoclonal antibody, such as an antibody having the antigen-specific binding characteristics of the 5c8 monoclonal antibody. An exemplary CD28 signalling interruptor is a CTLA4-Ig fusion protein. The disclosed compositions and methods unexpectedly can be used to prolong survival of grafted tissue in a recipient host, to reverse acute graft rejection, and to attenuate immunological consequences of the failure of grafted tissue.